



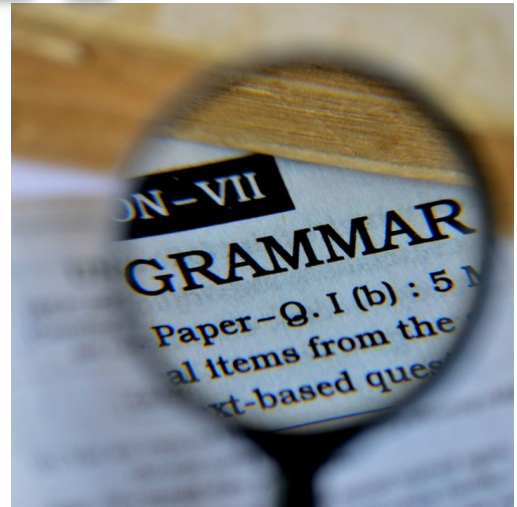
# DIRECT AND INDIRECT QUESTIONS



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Expemo code:

14CR-S75A-3V77



## 1

### Presentation

When we ask for information, we often use **direct questions**: *Where is it?*

If we want to be more polite or formal, we can use **indirect questions**: *Can you tell me where it is?*

Direct questions	Indirect questions
<p><b>Direct questions</b> are normal questions:</p> <p>What time <b>is</b> it?</p> <p>How long <b>does the journey take</b>?</p> <p>Why <b>are you</b> crying?</p> <p>How long <b>have you</b> been living here?</p> <p><b>Is he</b> at home?</p> <p><b>Did she</b> reply to your email?</p>	<p><b>Indirect questions</b> begin with <b>Could you tell me ...</b>, <b>Can you tell me ...</b>, <b>I'd like to know ...</b>, <b>Do you know ...</b>, etc.:</p> <p><b>Can you tell me</b> what time it is?</p> <p><b>Do you know</b> how long <b>the journey takes</b>?</p> <p><b>I'd like to know</b> why <b>you are</b> crying.</p> <p><b>Could you tell me</b> how long <b>you've</b> been living here?</p> <p><b>Do you know</b> if <b>he is</b> at home?</p> <p><b>I wonder</b> if <b>she replied</b> to your email.</p>





### Rules for forming direct and indirect questions

**Direct questions** can be **simple questions** (*Are you at home?*), **subject questions** (*Who won the game?*) or **object questions** (*What did they win?*).

With **simple questions** and **object questions** we use special word order for questions:

If there is a 'helping verb' (*auxiliary verb*), for example **will**, **was**, **have**, and **can**, we put the subject after the *auxiliary verb*:

**Can you** help me?      Where **will Allie** be tonight?      How many languages **can you** speak?

In **simple present** and **simple past** questions, we use **do/does/did**:

Where **do they** live?      **Did you** call me?

**Indirect questions** have the same word order as statements (*subject before verb*):

Do you know how long **the journey takes**?

We do not use **do/does/did** in the question: Do you know how long ~~does the journey take~~?

If there is no question word (**who**, **where**, **why**, **how**, etc.) in the **direct question**, we can use **if** or **whether** in the **indirect question**:

I wonder **if** she replied to your email.

I wonder **whether** she replied to your email.

## 2 Practice 1

Rewrite the questions below as indirect questions.

- Where is the nearest hotel?  
Could you tell me where the nearest hotel is?
- How do you say this in English?  
I'd like to know .....
- Do you have this shirt in a smaller size?  
Can you tell me .....
- How long did the meeting take?  
I wonder .....
- How did you fix the TV?  
Can you explain .....
- Where are you going to stay this weekend?  
Please tell me .....
- How long has he been waiting?  
I don't know .....
- Why did you come to our country?  
I'm curious .....





## 3

## Practice 2

Complete the job interview below.



**Interviewer:** Let's talk about your previous job. Could you describe \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> (what were your responsibilities?)

**Michael:** Well, my duties included answering the phone, dealing with customers, and organizing meetings for the director.

**Interviewer:** And can you tell us \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> (why did you quit?)

**Michael:** Well, after 5 years in the same company, I felt that I was ready for a different challenge.

**Interviewer:** Could you tell us \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>  
(why would you like to work for our company?)

**Michael:** Yes. Your company is well-known all over the world.

**Interviewer:** Hmm. I'd like to know \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>. (what are your weaknesses?)

**Michael:** Well, I am a perfectionist, and sometimes this can be a problem. But I'm working on it.

**Interviewer:** OK. Please let us know \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (can you start next week?)

Now listen to check your answers.

Audio

